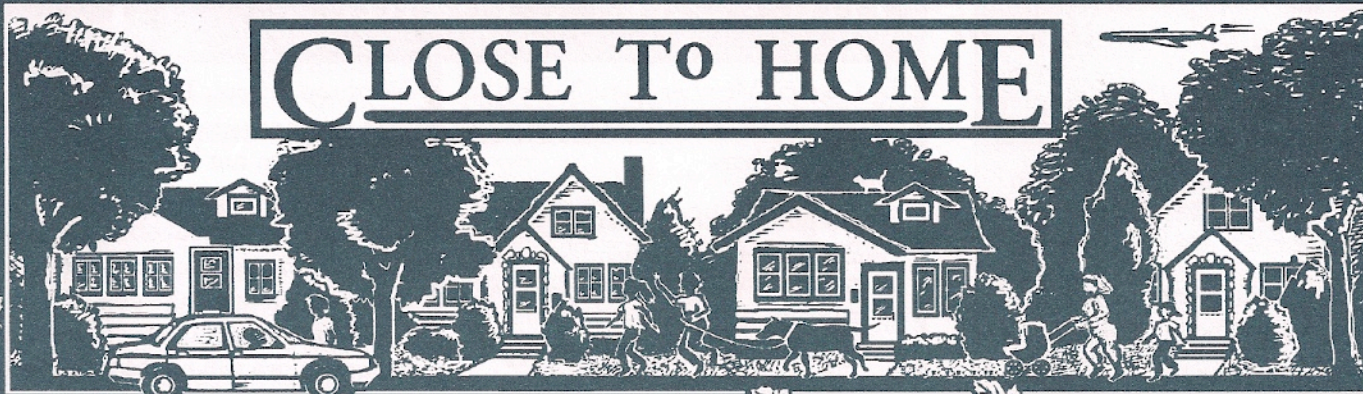


# CLOSE TO HOME



## The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter

February-March 2012

### FRNNG Neighbors Meet in February to Plan Future Priorities!

**O**n Saturday, February 18, 60 FRNNG residents will meet from 10 am to 12 noon at Field Community School in focus groups to brainstorm and identify FRNNG's future priorities as our neighborhood group moves forward in forming our new Neighborhood Priority Plan, as part of the City of Minneapolis' Community Participation Program, which replaced NRP at the end of 2011.

Come join your neighbors in determining what FRNNG's future priorities should be. Twenty residents from each of FRNNG's three neighborhoods are needed. A continental breakfast will be served to all participants. If you can't attend the meeting in person, send your suggestions in writing to the FRNNG office at [frnng@mtn.org](mailto:frnng@mtn.org). For more information, call the FRNNG office at 721-5424. Do it today!



#### The Community Participation Program

Neighborhood Focus Groups  
**February 2012**

Vote on top Priority Plan at  
FRNNG neighborhood  
**March 2012 Board Meeting**

Neighborhood Priority Plan  
Submission  
**April 16, 2012**

### What/Who is FRNNG?

FRNNG is the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group. We are the recognized neighborhood organization for three neighborhoods in south Minneapolis: Field, Regina and Northrop. FRNNG plays a vital role in managing funds pledged to Minneapolis neighborhoods through NRP and now, CPP. We facilitate grants that are available to residents and raise funds to improve and protect our neighborhoods.



#### History

The area now called Field Regina Northrop (FRN) Neighborhood was part of the first land acquired by the United States in what eventually became Minnesota. In the 1920's the area was still mainly rural but there were two main commercial districts in FRN - one at 48th and Chicago and the other at 48th and Fourth Avenue - and both were classic examples of the "streetcar corner" that grew up at regular nodes along streetcar lines. In 1975, the South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance was formed to guide the future of 48th and Chicago and the organization has been

*continued on page 3*

Visit us online at [www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org)

## FRNNG Meeting Information

### Full Board

• 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (LNPC), 17th Ave. and 46th St. The full board does not meet in Dec.

### Business Committee

• 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, LNPC  
Contact: Karen Young at [klyoung99@hotmail.com](mailto:klyoung99@hotmail.com)

### Community and Safety Committee:

• 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, McRae Park Rec Center

### Housing Committee

• 1st Monday of each month at 6 pm, Sisters Sludge, 46th St. and Bloomington Ave.

### Education Committee

• 1st Thursday of each month beginning in October, at 6:30 pm, LNPC  
Contact: Gerry Sell at [jdde@umn.edu](mailto:jdde@umn.edu)

### Parks Committee

• 1st Monday of each month at 7 pm, McRae Park Rec Center  
Contact: Kirk Frauenheim at [kirkfrauenheim@yahoo.com](mailto:kirkfrauenheim@yahoo.com)

### Greening Committee

• 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Turtle Bread Restaurant, 48th and Chicago  
Contact: Ted Moe, [thegreeningcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:thegreeningcommittee@gmail.com)

### Communications Committee

• 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 pm, LNPC  
Contact: Kirk Anderson at [kirkanderson48@gmail.com](mailto:kirkanderson48@gmail.com)

Meeting times may change due to weather, holidays or personal reasons. Please confirm with the contacts listed above.

## 11th Ward Update


by Council Member John Quincy

Dear Neighbors,

The beginning of the year is a great time to take a look forward at some of the things that will be happening in FRN this year.

As part of a citywide bike infrastructure plan, 17th Avenue will have improvements made to it that should make it better for commuting by bike. Between 24th Street and Minnehaha Parkway, 17th will become a bicycle boulevard. Public Works will use signage, pavement markings and traffic calming to encourage more bicycles to use 17th, while discouraging drivers from using 17th as a commuter route. More details about the plan are available at [www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles/projects/south/bicycles\\_southernbikeconnection](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles/projects/south/bicycles_southernbikeconnection).

I'm continuing to work with officials from Minneapolis Public Schools and developers to figure out viable development options for



Northrop School. The plan that was presented turned out to not be financially viable or sustainable. I've connected the school officials with city staff who have expertise in land development and valuation. I'm confident that through some of these conversations, we will be able to develop a plan that is a win-win-win for the neighborhood, school board and developer.

The 2012-2016 Capital Long-range Improvement Plan includes \$225,000 for Athletic Field and Site Improvements at McRae Park. These improvements will be done this summer. The Park Board is finalizing the plans for exactly what this will entail, but I'm looking forward to seeing the improvements!

I am always available to answer your questions at 673-2211. If you would like to receive the 11th Ward Monthly E-News, please send me an e-mail at [John.Quincy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:John.Quincy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

## FRNNG Grant Sheds Light on Neighborhood Crime

A little light was shed on crime for some residents in the Regina neighborhood when FRNNG was able to provide grant money towards the purchase of motion-detector lights for their homes and garages, following a string of break-ins late last fall. Assisted by FRNNG's 3rd Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist, FRNNG's Community and Safety committee was able to hire South Side Electric of Bloomington to install the security lights. Research and crime statistics prove that well-lit properties are less likely to be burglarized than darkened ones.



Left to right: FRNNG Program Manager Valerie Powers, baby Patrick Cruse, Nick Cruse, Tess Cruse, FRNNG President Stearline Rucker and electrician from South Side Electric at top, who installed the motion-detector lights at the Cruse residence

## What/Who is FRNNG... from page 1

instrumental in attracting both public and private development funds to the corner and exerts peer pressure on the area's businesses to maintain consistently high levels of service.

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) had its initial roots in the creation in April 1965 of the Field Neighborhood Group (FNG), which quickly evolved into the Field Regina Neighborhood Group (FRNG) later that year. More recently, under the city's Neighborhood Revitalization Program, the Northrop neighborhood joined in and the number of programs undertaken by FRNNG has greatly expanded.

### Getting Involved

FRNNG currently has openings on our board for neighborhood reps for both Field and Regina neighborhoods as well as for chairs of the Housing Committee as well as the Community and Safety Committee. Board meetings are once a month and committees also should meet once per month so the time commitment isn't too much. We are always looking for volunteers to serve on our various committees, too. If you are interested, contact the FRNNG office at 721-5424. Or, for more information please visit our website at [www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org).

## Check Out the South Minneapolis Housing Fair, Saturday, March 10

### Fun Home Improvement Event for the Whole Family

Whether you are giving a room a "make-over" or starting from the ground up, you'll find answers to all of your questions at the 18th annual South Minneapolis Housing Fair.

### FREE and Open to the Public

This event is free and open to the public and will be held Saturday, March 10, 2012, from 10 am to 3 pm. With its convenient location in the expansive commons area

of South High School, the Housing Fair is easy to find.

### Great Local Exhibitors and Door Prizes

We'll have almost 100 amazing exhibitors and vendors to make your dreams come true with expertise and advice on home remodeling, basement finishing, kitchen and bath transformation, landscaping and much more.

All exhibitors are located in the Metro area and provide the highest level of professional services. In addition, you'll enjoy making connections with local bankers, real estate agents and a broad range of community experts in a low-key conversational setting.

### Volunteers – You Can Get Involved!

A grass-roots neighborhood produced event like the South Minneapolis Housing Fair is built on hundreds of hours of volunteer time. Your efforts could

help to insure the success of the Housing Fair and the improvement in the safety and value of your neighborhood. For more information on how you can get involved contact the Event Coordinator, Margo Ashmore at [manager@housingfair.org](mailto:manager@housingfair.org) or call 867-4874.

We'll see you at the Fair!



## We've Redesigned Our Website!

Please check out the new and improved [www.frnng.com](http://www.frnng.com) website. We are still adding content but we feel the look and feel of the site is much better now. If there is information you desire but can't find it on the site, please drop us a line at [communications@frnng.com](mailto:communications@frnng.com).

If you are a Facebook user, please find us and like our page. Just search for Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group within Facebook. You can also follow us on Twitter - @FRNNG. Both avenues will allow you to receive timely updates from FRNNG as well as notices of upcoming events in our neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

**Field Regina Northrop News and Events**

**Thieves target snowblowers**  
Lt. Mike Sauri, head of 3rd Precinct's Property Crimes Investigations Unit, advises residents to be especially alert for potential snow blower thieves. "We were concerned about the number of recent burglaries that have targeted snow blowers in garages throughout the precinct," he said. "Snowblowers need to be sure they are using locks and strike plates on the service door and take automatic garage door openers with them when they leave their car." He added:  
Since Nov. 15, several burglaries in Sector 3 have resulted in the loss of snowblowers. They occurred at 5101 Cedar, 4702 3rd Av S, 3504 33rd Av S, and 4804 Center. "Call 911 to report burglaries taking place near your garage or in the alley," Sauri said, "especially if you don't know the person pushing a snow blower down your alley."  
More information on snowblower theft and prevention can be found here.

**Free Home Security Audit**  
Is having your home or garage broken into a constant worry for you? Stop home burglaries before they happen with a free home security audit conducted by Crime Prevention Specialists Sue Reasdale. Contact Sue at the Third Precinct by calling 612-673-2839 or e-mailing her at [sue\\_reasdale@mmnneapolis.gov](mailto:sue_reasdale@mmnneapolis.gov).

**Volunteer opportunities in your neighborhood**  
Are you looking for a way to volunteer with organizations in your neighborhood, but don't know quite how to get connected with the right group? For information about non-profit groups near you that are looking for volunteer help, check out [volunteermatch.org](http://volunteermatch.org), an easy-to-use web site that lists volunteer opportunities by zip code. Now that we're moving towards the holidays, there are plenty of opportunities to help your neighbors. If you want a way to "get paid" while you "give back," volunteering is the way to do it!

Homepage for the new FRNNG website

Check Out the  
**Redesigned  
FRNNG Website!**  
Find Us on Facebook...



and Follow Us on Twitter

## All Hail Hale and Field Community Schools!

Hale and Field Schools are the pair of FRNNG public schools that merged in the earlier 1970's, making a single stronger educational entity that addresses the needs of all elementary schoolchildren in our neighborhood! Hale and Field Community School state proudly that their primary mission is to ensure that all students learn. To this end, they are committed to providing opportunities for all of their students to reach their highest academic, social, emotional, physical and creative potential. Together, they value a tradition of strong community support for pairing – one school on two sites; partnering among parents, staff and community for shared responsibility for educating students; and providing an optimum learning environment for everyone.

Hale School is in the Hale, Page and Diamond Lake neighborhood and serves students from Kindergarten

through fourth grade. Hale offers both academic and arts programs for its students. FRNNG has supported many Hale School projects, including creation of the Peace Garden, providing a parent liaison for the PTA, and funding an artist-in-residence from the Northern Clay Center.

Field School is in the Field neighborhood and serves students from fifth through eighth grade. It offers a wide variety of music programs and academic



opportunities like participating in the National Geographic Fee, History Day, Math Master and Math Counts Competition, along with many others. Thanks to its FRNNG neighbors, it has received new window treatments, a new fence, and will soon have an electronic sign installed.

So let's hear it for our neighborhood schools, preparing tomorrow's leaders for the challenges they face today!



# Happy Valentine's Day!

## Minneapolis Police 3rd Precinct's Block Leader Training Calendar

**Choose just one date:**  
Monday, February 13,  
or Tuesday, March 30

Join other leaders throughout the city to develop skills to work effectively with your neighbors.

### Location:

Police 3rd Precinct  
Community Room  
Minnehaha and East Lake St.

### Topics to be covered:

- Introduction to community crime prevention
- How to organize a block/apartment club
- Services of community crime prevention
- Responsibilities of a crime prevention block leader
- How and when to use 911
- How to solve problems effectively
- Meet your crime prevention specialist

Please RSVP to attend a training!  
Call **673-2839**. An organized block is the best defense against crime!

If you need a disability related accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, wheelchair accessible meeting site or materials in alternative format, please contact Karen Notsch (**673-2856**) at least two weeks prior to the training date.



# Thanks to our Supporters!

*Close to Home* would like to thank the following individuals, local businesses and organizations in our community for their generous financial contributions to the production and mailing of this newsletter. Now we are asking you to support not only this publication, but also all of our other activities. Anything that you can give will be very much appreciated and put to good use. Also, since we are a "501(c)3" organization, any donations are deductible to the full extent of the law. If you would like more information on how your organization or business can become a supporter, please call the FRNNG office at 721-5424. **We also encourage residents to support our local businesses so that they can continue to be a strong and vital sector of our community.**

## Under \$100

**Southside Chiropractic, P.A.**

55th and Chicago, 827-0657

**Pathfinder Care Management**

48th and Chicago, 729-9096

## Partner Level- \$100-\$199

**Minnehaha Animal Hospital**

48th and Chicago, 825-4427

**T.A.'s Automotive, Inc.**

42nd and Bloomington, 823-7100

## Gardening Tips- Getting a Start on Your Vegetable Garden

by Jennifer Rensenbrink

It may look bleak outside, but now is the perfect time to think about what to plant in your vegetable garden. Start with a list of vegetables and herbs you want to try — I like to try at least one new thing every year, and planting a variety can help ensure at least a couple of successes. Draw your garden on graph paper and make sure you have enough space.

March and early April are the ideal time to start seeds indoors. I have a very small seed-starting system on top of my refrigerator where it's warm, and because it's in a prominent location, it's easier to remember to water and/or mist them twice daily.

If you're new to seed starting it helps to have a strategy. This year, I'm going to focus on greens such as lettuces, chard, and kale. My plan is to get transplants out in the garden as soon as possible

in mid-April and hopefully be enjoying lettuce and greens in late May. If you direct-seed greens in the garden, you may not have any harvest before mid-June. It helps to have realistic expectations about these things.

Not long after I plant out the baby spring lettuces and greens, I will start another round of seeds inside so that I'll have transplants ready when the first are done in July. This way I can assure a good supply through the fall.

Visit my website for links to helpful University of

Minnesota Extension resources on vegetable gardening and starting seeds indoors, as well as sample garden layouts from my own yard.

Jennifer Rensenbrink writes about gardening and other adventures at [newhomeeconomics.wordpress.com](http://newhomeeconomics.wordpress.com)



**BE SNOW SMART!**

KNOW WHERE TO PARK IN

SNOW EMERGENCIES

CALL 348-SNOW

2011-2012

# Restorative Justice— Bringing People Together to Make Things Right

Restorative justice is a victim centered response to crime that provides opportunities by those most affected by the crime— the victim, the offender and members of the community to be directly involved in responding to the harm caused by the crime. At Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) our goal is restorative justice, which means the outcome should repair whatever damage was done to the extent possible. We use a face-to-face model called “community conferencing,” which is very different from the traditional court process. The conference itself is a guided small group discussion with a focus on two things: how people are affected by certain activities and how

to repair the harm. A conference can deal with up to 4 separate cases in 2 to 3 hours. This is not about shaming or punishment. It is meant to produce a positive outcome through personal responsibility and the opportunity to make amends. The program exists because people from local neighborhoods are working together to improve the quality of life in their community.

At RJCA we get a lot of referred participants who are cited for livability crimes which many people consider victimless crimes since there is no clear cut victim. In these instances we see the community as a victim. Restorative justice improves accountability through consequences that are more significant

to the offender and community than traditional punishments administered by the punitive system. Through the community conferencing process, community members get to know their neighbors and go on to join other neighborhood activities: neighborhood board, block patrol, clean-up event, etc. Each offender meets face-to-face with community members, admits responsibility and learns first-hand how their actions have affected others.

For more information or how you can get involved visit [www.rjca-inc.org](http://www.rjca-inc.org) or contact [info@rjca-inc.org](mailto:info@rjca-inc.org).

## Grants Available for Water-friendly Landscaping

Want to help protect clean water as you plan to beautify your yard this spring? The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) can help. The MCWD offers grants for projects that protect water resources in a variety of ways, whether or not you live on a lake or stream.



MINNEHAHA CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Polluted stormwater runoff is the biggest water quality problem in Minnesota and across the country. In a natural environment, most rainwater soaks into the ground or is captured by trees or other plants. But in developed areas, rainwater runs off roads, parking lots and rooftops, carrying dirt, fertilizer, pesticides and other harmful material into lakes, streams and wetlands. Eroded shorelines and streambanks also contribute sediments and excess nutrients to waterways. The poor water quality that results affects recreation, fish and wildlife, and reduces property values near affected lakes and streams.

The MCWD encourages using stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that catch polluted stormwater

before it enters sewers or water bodies. The District is also ready to pay for up to half of the cost and help you plan what's best for you.

Eligible projects for the Stormwater BMP Cost Share grant funding include raingardens (planted depressions that filter stormwater), pervious pavers (hard surfaces which allow water to pass through), and other innovative BMPs that capture and filter stormwater.

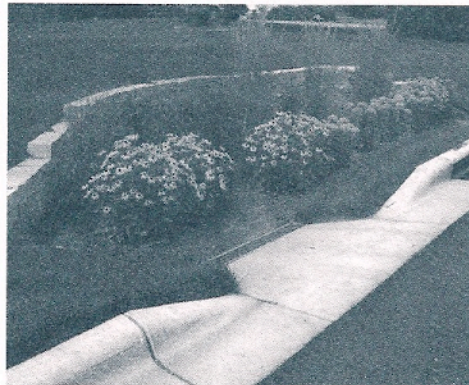
Eligible projects for the Shoreline and Streambank Stabilization Cost Share grant funding use native plants to reduce erosion along lakes and streams. The roots of native plants anchor the soil, filter and absorb polluted runoff, and beautify the shoreline or streambank. Their natural height and density

also discourage geese, which are attracted to turf adjacent to water.

“There are many options people can take to enhance their property and help the environment at the same time,” Joe Barten, MCWD’s Cost Share Specialist, said. “Cost Share grants can cover up to 50 percent of a project’s cost and we encourage property owners to take advantage of the program.”

Grants are available for improvements to private property including residential, business and private schools. Shoreline and Streambank Cost Share grants also are available to public entities.

For more information, contact Joe Barten, MCWD Cost Share Specialist, at 952-641-4523 or [jbarten@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:jbarten@minnehahacreek.org) or visit [www.minnehahacreek.org/grants/cost-share-programs](http://www.minnehahacreek.org/grants/cost-share-programs)



## McRae Park

906 East 47th Street

*The complete winter schedule is available at McRae Park or online at the address below. You can register for programs at the address listed. Contact the park for more information.*

**www.minneapolisarks.org**

**370-4909** (voice)

**824-4170** (fax)

Anne Kegley, Director  
akegley@minneapolisarks.org

## Vacant House on Your Block- What Can Neighbors Do?

Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group is interested in keeping track of properties in our neighborhood that have become vacant, abandoned or are otherwise causing concern to their neighbors. In order to keep the city and neighborhood engaged in improving our neighborhoods, please contact the FRNNG at 721-5424 or [frnng@mtn.org](mailto:frnng@mtn.org) office if you notice a vacant or problem property on your block.

For further information go to [www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org) and follow the link at 'Vacant Houses on Your Block'.

## Get Us Online!



We are looking for ways to cut cost and reduce waste – please help us by registering to receive *Close to Home* electronically. Visit [www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org) and look for the link to register. You can also register to receive other communications via email as well. Your email address will be used for FRNNG in only the way you intend and you may unsubscribe at any time.

Thank you for supporting us in this effort.

## Support the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

Help keep FRNNG working for you by sending in a donation of \$15 or more. Combined with the business and church donations, your gift supports *Close to Home* and other activities of the organization. Please keep them coming! FRNNG is a 501.3c organization and all gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

**FRNNG**

**VOLUNTARY DONATION**

\$15    \$25    \$50    Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# CLOSE TO HOME

Close To Home is the official publication of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc., and is published six times per year by the FRNNG Communications Committee.

Editor: Linda Rost  
Layout: John Vasiliou

Webmaster: Valerie Powers

Contributors:

Kirk Anderson, Brandon Hilton, Valerie Powers, Council Member John Quincy, Jennifer Rensenbrink, Sue Roethele

Articles, photos, and announcements of interest to the FRN Community are welcome.

Call 721-5424 or Fax 721-4539

E-mail: frnng@mtn.org

Copy deadline for the next issue is February 27

1620 E. 46th St. Mpls, MN 55407 721-5424

**The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc.**  
**Established in 1965**

1620 East 46th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
FRN Info Line 721-5424  
Fax: 721-4539

E-mail: frnng@mtn.org  
Program Manager: Valerie Powers

**2011-2012 FRNNG Board**

\*Executive Committee Officers

\*President: Stearline Rucker

\*1st V.P.: Wade Warner

\*2nd V.P.: Willie Bridges

\*Treasurer: Shannon Guernsey

\*Secretary: Shelley Nystrom

\*Field Neighborhood Rep: Open

\*Regina Neighborhood Rep: Open

\*Northrop No. Neighborhood Rep: Jeri Elsner

\*Northrop So. Neighborhood Rep: Pete Berlute

Business: Karen Young

Communications: Kirk Anderson

Community and Safety: Open

Education: Gerry Sell/Mary Ellen Mueller

Greening: Ted Moe

Housing: Open

Parks: Kirk Frauenheim

Programs: Keely Wheaton

**Useful Phone Numbers**

8th Ward Council Elizabeth Glidden 673-2208

11th Ward Council John Quincy 673-2211

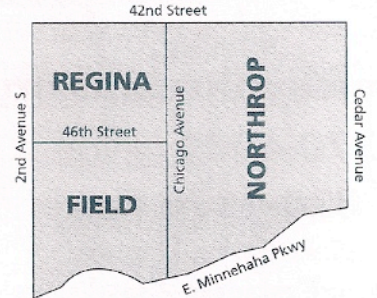
Sue Roethele CCP/SAFE 673-2839

Housing Inspector 673-5858

Senior HelpLine 729-5499

McRae Park 370-4909

Airport Noise Complaints 726-9411



FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBOR  
4828 12TH AVE S  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55417-1109

1620 East 46th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55407



Minimum 20% post-consumer content

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MPLS, MN  
PERMIT #1342

**The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter**  
**FRNNG Neighbors Meet to Plan Future Priorities p.1**  
**11th Ward Update .....p.2**  
**All Hail Hale and Field Community Schools .....p.4**